

provide greater environmental benefits, or the same benefits using less energy or at a reduced cost. Water quality benefits are the primary criterion for determining which projects receive funding, and encourages watershed approaches to solving water quality problems, as well as traditional infrastructure.

Since 1972, the federal government has provided more than \$82 billion for wastewater infrastructure and other assistance. Overall investment in the nation's infrastructure—including that from federal, state, and local sources—has been over \$250 billion.

Today, twice as many waters are considered fishable and swimmable as they were before the Clean Water Act was passed into law. Our infrastructure systems include 16,000 publicly owned wastewater treatment plants, 100,000 major pumping stations, 600,000 miles of sanitary sewers, and 200,000 miles of storm sewers. Toxic chemicals and other pollutants have been greatly reduced. Wildlife has returned in abundance to waters that were once declared "dead". One in ten tourists is destined for the beach—providing our travel and vacation industries with customers and business.

Many of these success stories have occurred, in part, because of a strong commitment to fund necessary projects to improve water quality. Title VI of the Clean Water Act provides for the establishment and capitalization of Clean Water State Revolving Loan Funds ("Clean Water SRFs") to aid in funding the construction of wastewater treatment works and other wastewater infrastructure around the country. Since 1987, individual states and territories have maintained Clean Water SRFs to help provide for low-cost financing for approved water quality infrastructure projects.

These advances aside, one-third of our nation's waters are still in deplorable condition. Although federal funding of Clean Water SRFs had been steady at a level of \$1.35 billion annually, in recent years, funding for the program has been cut dramatically. From just fiscal year 2006 to fiscal year 2007, the administration's budget request for Clean Water SRFs decreased \$199.2 million, dropping from \$886.7 million to \$687.5 million.

These declines come at a time when funding is vital for progress. Our population is booming, putting more pressure on already over-burdened systems. In addition, much of the wastewater infrastructure in this country is rapidly approaching or has already exceeded its projected useful life. These antiquated systems need maintenance and rebuilding to protect our physical, economic, and natural environments.

Without increased investment in wastewater infrastructure, in less than a generation, the U.S. could lose much of the gains it made thus far in improving water quality as a result of the 1972 Clean Water Act.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill, to continue funding our infrastructure, to make repairs where maintenance is needed, and to renew our commitment to our nation's waters.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF OFFICER DAN BESSANT OF THE OCEANSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

### HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2007*

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and service of Oceanside Police Officer Dan Bessant, who was killed in the line of duty on December 20, 2006.

A 3-year police department veteran, Officer Bessant was fatally shot while responding to a fellow officer's call for assistance on a routine traffic stop in Oceanside, California. It is intolerable that such a fine young man should be taken from those he loved in the prime of his life to a senseless act of youth violence.

Just as he did on that fateful day, Officer Bessant spent his life of 25 years committed to serving the public—first as police cadet, then as a Police Community Safety Assistant, and finally as an Oceanside Police Officer. Each day of Officer Bessant's service made Oceanside a safer place.

Officer Bessant will be remembered as a dedicated officer, passionate for his work and eager to improve the community where he was born and raised. His family and friends will remember him as a proud, new father and devoted husband. By all, he will be recalled for his unwavering honor and courage.

On this day, Congress should remember Officer Bessant's passion for law enforcement and his endless devotion to Oceanside. May God bring peace to his wife Katelyn, 2 month-old son Wyatt, and his family, friends and colleagues.

### HONORING THE LIFE OF EMMA FAUST TILLMAN

### HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2007*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay great honor to Mrs. Emma Faust Tillman, who passed away on January 28, 2007. Mrs. Tillman, a longtime resident of the Hartford area, was the oldest known living person prior to her death at 114 years of age. Though her reign lasted only 4 days, the legacy of her life can provide inspiration to us all.

Born November 22, 1892 in Gibsonville, North Carolina, Mrs. Tillman was one of 23 siblings. Her parents, former slaves, moved Mrs. Tillman and her family to Glastonbury, Connecticut in 1900. After graduating high school in 1909 as the only black student in her class, Mrs. Tillman went on to work as a cook, maid, and party caterer, eventually owning her own catering service and baking for many of Hartford's notable residents, including Hartford Hospital's Dr. Thomas Hepburn, father of legendary actress Katharine Hepburn. She wed Arthur Tillman in 1914 and they had 2 daughters before his death in 1939.

Deeply religious from a young age, Mrs. Tillman became involved with her church memberships. After being christened at age 13, she began singing in her church choir, an ac-

tivity in which she was engaged in for over 80 years. A longtime member of the A.M.E. Zion Church in Hartford, she was considered the "mother of the church" by Rev. Terry L. Jones, not only for her ripe age, but also for her fervent faith. When commenting on the longevity of her life, Mrs. Tillman would always credit "God's will."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the life of Emma Faust Tillman. In her 114 years, she deeply touched and inspired those who knew her, and those who have heard her tremendous story. My thoughts and prayers are with her friends and family, in particular, her surviving daughter Marjorie. The Hartford community is thankful for the honor of knowing Emma Faust Tillman.

### LANE EVANS POST OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

### HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 521 as a tribute to Congressman Lane Evans, my friend and former colleague. Congressman Evans faithfully and dutifully represented the people of the 17th District of Illinois. Today, we honor former Congressman Evans by naming the Post Office located at 2633 11th Street in Rock Island, Illinois, after him. I thank my fellow Illinoisan and Mr. Evans' successor, Congressman PHIL HARE, for introducing this legislation to honor our friend and former member of this body.

Lane Evans grew up in Rock Island, Illinois. The son of a firefighter, he joined the Marine Corps right out of high school and served our country in Vietnam from 1969 to 1971. After his tour of duty, Congressman Evans went to college and then to Georgetown University Law Center to earn his J.D.

Lane Evans was first elected to Congress in 1982 and served for eleven terms. Throughout his tenure in Congress, Evans was a tireless champion for veterans across the nation. He served on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee from 1983 through till his final term and was the ranking member of that committee for the last 10 years.

During his time in Washington, Lane Evans worked tirelessly to secure many benefits for America's servicemen and women. He campaigned to increase assistance to homeless veterans, to fund research on complex combat-related injuries, to expand VA home loans, to increase G.I. worker training benefits, and was a staunch advocate of increasing veterans' health benefits. Specifically, he led efforts to help combat veterans cope with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Although Lane Evans worked diligently for our men and women in uniform, he was also a leading advocate for many other causes. Mr. Evans fought hard to ban landmines, which kill and maim thousands every year, to protect American workers from cheaper foreign competition, to have fair trade policies with other nations, to protect America's farmers and our environment.

Mr. Speaker, last year, Congressman Evans chose not to run for reelection to the 110th